

*Time Allocation*

tion of constructive measures was necessary to maintain the deficit at a proper level and to ward off long term problems for Canada. By tackling the deficit right now, we are thinking in terms of the future of our children.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to deal with several alarmist statements made by our colleagues opposite. Some opposition members suggest that they are the unwavering champions of social programs—

**Mr. Boudria:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) on a point of order.

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, I had been listening attentively to the Hon. Member's speech until I noticed, as you did yourself, that the speech was read in its entirety, and I am sure you will agree that under the Standing Orders, Members may not read what they say in the House without good reason.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) may be technically right, but I think the Chair has been tolerant in this respect with junior Members of the House.

The Hon. Member for Blainville-Deux-Montagnes (Mrs. Landry).

**Mrs. Landry:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I prefer to read what I say and say something sensible, instead of speaking without a text and speaking at random.

Mr. Speaker, some Members of the Opposition are inferring that they are steadfast defenders of our social programs. I think they have a bad case of selective amnesia. Although they may not want to hear it, I may remind them it was the previous Government that fully de-indexed family allowances for 1976, when Canada was faced with an annual inflation rate of 11.2 per cent.

In 1983-84, the previous Government again acted by capping increases in family allowance payments at 6 and 5 per cent respectively. I suggest that our friends opposite stop their posturing.

One of the Ministers at the time stated that it was impossible to deal effectively with our own deficit and that of the provinces unless taxpayers helped to reduce these deficits by limiting their income. Those words should be an inspiration to the Opposition today.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that the two Opposition parties do not have a monopoly on compassion. Our Government's family assistance policies are dictated by the principles of social justice. The principle of universality is not being challenged. In addition, the whole family assistance program is more progressive than it was under the previous administration. Finally, our fight against the deficit sparked

the economic recovery which makes it possible for all Canadians to look forward to better days.

Mr. Speaker, I fervently hope that Bill C-70 will be referred to a legislative committee as soon as possible.

● (1220)

[English]

**Mr. David Berger (Laurier):** Mr. Speaker, if, one year ago, someone had told me that I would be rising to make the speech that I plan to make in the next 10 minutes, I really would not have believed it. Who would have thought that the Conservative Government, elected with such a huge majority, would have succeeded in disappointing so many Canadians so quickly? The Conservative Government was given a mandate to better the lives of Canadians, to find a better way of doing things. One year later, I invite you, Mr. Speaker, to read the year-end reviews. Even the staunchest Conservatives supporters are having doubts.

[Translation]

It did not take long to realize that the promises of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) were not sincere. The moment the new Government took office, we witnessed a whole slew of political appointments which even the most staunch Conservative finds revolting.

[English]

It did not take long for Canadians to discover—

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. If the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) has a minute, he might advise his colleague, the Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger), not to read his speech.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Laurier (Mr. Berger) has the floor.

**Mr. Marchi:** That's sleazy. You're desperate to get on t.v.

**Mr. Berger:** It did not take long for Canadians to discover—

**Ms. Copps:** The only thing you're going to finish is Canadian families.

**Mr. Berger:** I will try again. It did not take long for Canadians to discover that P.C. meant not Progressive Conservative but "Patronage Canada".

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Boudria:** Well said, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Lewis:** Well read.

**Mr. Berger:** I think that most Members of the House and many members of the public probably read Gary Lautens' column which revealed why the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) travels with two planes. He has one filled with empty seats and the other with empty promises.